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'KARNATAKA, GUJARAT ARE BEST STATES FOR STARTUPS IN INDIA'

The two states provide the best system for new entrepreneurs, according to States' Startup Ranking 2021 released on Monday

MEGHALAYA BEST PERFORMING SMALL STATE

Meghalaya has been adjudged the best performer among smaller states, according to the ranking by the Dept for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade. The rankings are based on the initiatives taken to develop the startup ecosystem. Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and Jammu & Kashmir have been included in the top performers category | P4,10

FOUR STATES, 1 UT SKIP RANKING EXERCISE

- Andhra, Bihar, Mizoram and Ladakh are 'emerging startup ecosystems'. Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh and Goa are in the 'Leaders' category. West Bengal, Sikkim, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Lakshadweep did not participate in the exercise

26 action points

ACROSS 7 BROAD REFORM AREAS WERE EVALUATED FOR THE RANKING OF STATES

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Beaten by teacher, Class VI student admitted to hospital

BOSKY KHANNA & DONNA EVA @ Bengaluru

IN a shocking case of corporal punishment, a sixth grade student of an ICSE school in Vijayanagar had to be admitted to a hospital on Friday after allegedly being hit by his mathematics school teacher for forgetting to bring his homework notes to class. The boy was discharged on Monday from Vani Vilas Hospital.

The incident came to light on Friday evening, when the student complained of ear pain to his parents after returning home from tuition at around 9.30 pm.

"He told us his maths teacher in school had hit him for forgetting to take his notes to class. We first took him to school to ask the teacher what happened. But looking at the medical condition of our son, we took him to the hospital for treatment. Our son was complaining of severe ear pain and vision problems," Lakshmi Narasimha, the student's father, told TNIE.

The student has been studying in Blue Bell Public School, Vijayanagar, after being allotted a seat under the Right To Education (RTE) quota. The father, the sole bread-winner of the family, is a bus driver with a private transport agency.

Narasimha said he had tried contacting the school administration numerous times.

When the parents eventually reached the school's principal, they alleged that they were yelled at for calling late in the night.

However, the school administration had a conflicting report about the incident although they admitted that the teacher in question, Mahadesh, was being questioned by the Block Education Officer (BEO). The school authorities alleged they made every effort to admit the child in a hospital and take care of the situation. CONTINUED ON: P5

PSI scam: Paul in CID net, first Karnataka ADGP to be arrested

Placed under suspension; Remanded to 10-day police custody

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

THE Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Monday arrested senior IPS officer and former chief of police recruitment, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Amrit Paul in connection with the alleged multi-crore police sub inspector (PSI) recruitment scam. He was taken for medical examination to Victoria Hospital soon after his arrest and later produced before a court, which remanded him to police custody for 10 days for custodial interrogation.

Amrit Paul

According to sources, the confessional statement made by former DSP Shantha Kumar, who was arrested earlier by the CID in the case under Section 164 CrPC was reportedly instrumental in Paul's arrest. Kumar was responsible for the strongroom, which was allegedly rigged.

"The CID had gathered enough evidence including digital proof which led to the arrest of the senior IPS officer," said sources.

Following a letter from the DGP, CID, to the Chief Secretary informing about Paul's arrest, the State government has placed Paul under suspension under The All India Services (Discipline & Appeals) Rule, 1969.

As per the rule, any member of the Service who is detained in official custody whether on a criminal charge or otherwise for a period longer than 48 hours, shall be deemed to have been suspended by the government concerned.

This is the first time in the history of Indian Police Service (IPS), Karnataka cadre that an ADGP rank officer has been arrested. His arrest sent shock waves across the top bureaucracy in the State.

Paul, an IPS officer of 1995 batch, was called for questioning for the third time to the CID office at Carlton House with regards to the ongoing investigation in the infamous PSI recruitment scam at around 11 am. He was questioned by the investigating officer (IO) - Superintendent of Police (SP) Raghavendra Hegde - and later arrested at around 2 pm. P4

Graft case: ACB arrests IAS officer Manjunath

Bengaluru: Days after the Karnataka HC pulled up Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) for not cracking down on IAS and IPS officers, the ACB has arrested former DC of Bengaluru Urban district J Manjunath in connection with a corruption case | P3

They (CID) have taken action based on evidence. Government will act against the guilty even if they happen to be top officials. Earlier governments didn't bother to investigate scams

Basavaraj Bommai, Chief Minister

Paul held based on staff's statement: HM

Bengaluru: Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said ADGP Amrit Paul was arrested based on the statements of other accused, particularly his office staff. "The DySP and other staff had given statements about Paul's involvement," he said | P4

SHINDE WINS TRUST VOTE; NEW SPARRING ON CHIEF WHIP IN SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai/New Delhi

REBEL Shiv Sena leader and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Monday comfortably won the vote of confidence in the Assembly, but there was another round of legal sparring between rival Sena camps in the Supreme Court.

While Shinde's faction and the BJP together got 164 votes as against the simple majority mark of 145 in a 288-member House, the Opposition polled just 99. Three abstained (SP 2, MIM 1), while 10 Congress members, including ex-chief minister Ashok Chavan failed to show up.

After the floor test, the Shinde faction requested Speaker Rahul Narvekar to disqualify 14 Sena MLAs, including Aditya Thackeray, for 'violating the whip' and voting for the Opposition. The Thackeray faction, too, made a similar complaint.

Earlier, Uddhav Thackeray had issued a letter saying Shinde will be the Sena legislative party leader and Sunil Prabhu chief whip. But the ruling Sena faction appointed Bharat Gogawale the chief whip and the Speaker approved it on Sunday.

"This is illegal, since only the party president has the right to make such appointments," claimed Sena's Lok Sabha member Arvind Sawant.

The matter went to the Supreme Court with senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Thackeray, mentioning it before a bench of justices Indira Banerjee and J K Maheswari. The bench said it would be heard on July 11 along with other related matters.

"The Speaker has no jurisdiction to recognise whips. This is changing the status quo of proceedings before this court. The Speaker yesterday at the stroke of midnight elected the whip," said Singhvi. P9

AJIT PAWAR IS LEADER OF OPPOSITION

The NCP appointed Ajit Pawar as the leader of the Opposition. NCP is the single largest party in the Opposition with 52 MLAs while Congress has 44 MLAs. The Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena has just 14 MLAs. Ajit Pawar was deputy chief minister in the outgoing ministry

EXPRESS READ

13 dead as Himachal bus falls into gorge

Chandigarh: 13 people were killed and two others injured after a bus fell into a 200-ft gorge in Sainj valley of Himachal Pradesh on Monday. The driver lost control at a hairpin bend near Jangla village. P10

Civic workers get assurance, end strike

Bengaluru: Pourakarmikas called off their strike after receiving the latest proceeding copy from the CM's office, assuring them that the process of regularisation of their services will commence. P2

JAB-O-METER
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July 3 1,78,383 doses
July 4 10,09,757 doses
TOTAL: 1,98,08,49,980

NATION WIDE	JULY 3	JULY 4	KARNATAKA	JULY 3	JULY 4
Fresh cases	16,103	16,135	Fresh cases	826	749
Recoveries	13,929	13,958	Recoveries	600	940
Deaths	31	24	Deaths	0	1

An earthmover clears a road of slush in Anmod Ghat | EXPRESS

Goa-Anmod Road closed due to landslides

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS AND NAUSHAD BIJAPUR @ Karwar

THE NH4A Goa-Anmod Road passing through Uttara Kannada district is closed due to a series of landslides and vehicles have been stranded on the road since Monday morning after soil, trees and boulders spilled on to the road.

According to police, the first landslide occurred at around 9 am at Goa border near Dudhsagar temple, where a huge boulder landed on the road. The high-velocity wind and landslide also uprooted several trees.

Local authorities at Anmod and Goa government officials began clearing the road on a war footing. CONTINUED ON: P5

Man washed away in rain

Karwar: One person was washed away during heavy rain in Uttara Kannada district near Haliyal. Manjunath More, a native of Haliyal, was swept away in Sathnalli lake. Many houses were damaged and trees uprooted.

Rural distress peaks in June as unemployment rate soars

SAMIKSHA GOEL @ New Delhi

AFTER some improvement in May, unemployment rate again soared in June to 7.80%, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)'s latest data. Joblessness had cooled at 7.12% in May 2022 compared with 7.83% in April. Urban joblessness rate fell 0.91% to 7.30% in June but rural unemployment moved up 1.41% to 8.03%, data show.

Haryana witnessed the highest joblessness rate in June at 30.6% followed by Rajasthan at 29.8%. On the flip side, Madhya Pradesh reported a low rate of unemployment at 0.5%, Chhattisgarh and Odisha at 1.2% each and Tamil Nadu at 2.1%.

"Recovery in the labour market has been slower in case of salaried jobs, youth employment, particularly in rural areas," said Atul Pratap Singh, co-founder & CEO, Jobsgaar.

Athawale pushes for census of all castes, not just the OBCs

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

UNION Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale backs the idea of a nation-wide census of all castes and not just of Other Backward Classes.

In an exclusive interview to this newspaper, Athawale said: "I have always supported caste census. My party's position is that not only OBCs, all castes should be counted. This will provide clear data of the caste-based marginalisation and deprivation." He is the president of the Republican Party of India, a constituent of the BJP-led NDA. The assertion comes at a time when the BJP's ally in Bihar, the JD(U), is ready to conduct a caste-based census in the state. "Now that many parties are demanding it, the Central government should consider it," he said.

It also comes in the face of Centre maintaining in an affidavit to the Supreme Court that a caste-based survey is not feasible. He also allayed fears of a repeat of Mandal politics if a caste-based census is done. "Now NDA government provided 10% reservation for EWS category, we won't see any more protests," he said.

He also said the Centre will look into the demands of various tribal communities to recognise Sarna as a separate religion and include it in religion column of the census. He said the Rohini Commission, formed in 2017 to look into the sub-categorisation of OBCs, is still working on the report.

NO SERVICE CHARGE

Regulator just shrunk your food bill!

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE next time you walk into a favourite restaurant for a meal, you can expect the food bill to be lower than before, as the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has just barred the default levy of 'service charge' on it. If it is not, you can file a complaint against the eatery.

Also, service charge can't be collected by adding it along with the food bill and levying GST on the total amount, the regulatory body said in its new guidelines. You can still tip the waiter if you feel the service is superb, but that is your personal choice. And no restaurant can refuse services over non-payment of service charges.

The guidelines, released on Monday, seek to prevent unfair trade practices and violation of consumer rights. However, Pradeep Shetty, joint honorary secretary of Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India, says industry is already following the guidelines. "Nobody was forced to pay the service charge," he claims.

SOUMYADIP SINHA

The new guidelines come as a big relief to consumers as most restaurants and bars levy 5-12% service charge on food bill. The bill could burn a bigger hole in your pocket if service charges are levied on liquors because many states levy a hefty value-added tax on the same.

So, watch your food bill the next time you eat out. If you are levied service charge, you can ask the restaurant to remove it. Alternatively, you can lodge a complaint on the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) by calling 1915 or through the NCH mobile app. You may also file a complaint with the Consumer Commission through the e-daakhil portal (www.e-daakhil.nic.in). The complaint may also be emailed to CCPA on com-ccpa@nic.in.

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